

Refrigerator Notes 23 April 2017

Un-Bar the Doors

John 20:19-23

1. That morning, Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene (John 20:1–18). But now Jesus appears to all the disciples (the eleven apostles) at once. Notice three things: the doors are locked; the disciples are frightened; and Jesus comes to them and stands in their midst
2. The text tells us that Jesus did not have to knock. Jesus did not even have to open the door. He simply was there
3. So Jesus has a physical body, because he has not ascended to His Father
4. Which is an indication for our lives today that Jesus can go where no one else can go; Put another way, there is no place where you are, and no depths of personhood that you are located, which Jesus can't penetrate
5. In our lives, he keep doors locked to prevent thief or personal harm by intruders because we are fearful people
6. Most things that we are fearful of becomes just an illusion of our minds
7. But unless you unlock the doors of your fears, Jesus want come in - unless invited to come into your heart
8. The issue is twofold; trust and faith; and that is what Jesus is demonstrating in the text is: I come to my own when they are afraid. I don't wait for them to get their act together. I don't wait for them to have enough faith or trust to overcome fear. I come to help them have enough faith and trust to overcome fear
9. Back to Verse 19, its time to un-bar the doors: “. . . the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them.” The point here is that he came right into the middle of their meeting. He did not come to the edge and call out through the walls and deal with them as a distant deity. He wanted them to see Him and know Him and believe in Him and love Him
10. Jesus wanted His disciples to know that He did not forsake them nor does Jesus forsakes us
11. When one has surrender completely to the Lord, Jesus is able to do great things in their lives
12. Jesus tells his disciples at least three things; And these three things turn out to be three gifts for each: the gift of peace, the gift of power, and the gift of purpose
13. The opposite of peace is conflict, which we know all too well. The opposite of power is weakness when we are marginalized or disenfranchised. The opposite of purpose is aimlessness, when Jesus is not allowed to be the center of your life
14. Countless number of lives are ruined by conflict, weakness, and aimlessness in the church
15. Before Jesus says anything about power or purpose, Jesus establishes peace. The order here is really important. The peace that Jesus gives is before and underneath any of our empowered actions or any of our purposeful deeds. We don't initiate peace with Jesus by our actions. He initiates peace with us through His GRACE.
16. The apostle Paul explains it like this: “He [Jesus] himself is our peace, who has made us both one [Jew and Gentile] . . . and reconciled us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (Ephesians 2:14–18).
17. The peace that Jesus offers the disciples is peace that He accomplished when He died for them on the cross; when Jesus died for us on the cross

18. Jesus tells us if we trust Him with our sins and willing to repent, He won't hold them against you, peace is also a gift from God
19. Jesus comes to us and gives us His peace with God. Then he gives us power to do the kinds of things that mere humans can't do — like defeating our own selfishness, and loving other people, and treasuring Christ above all
20. V. 23, Jesus says to the disciples: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." What he means is this: When you tell people about what I have done, speaking my word, about my work, in the power of my Spirit, I am the one speaking through you, so that if anyone believes your word, I forgive their sins